

THOSE MAGNIFICENT CLASSIC WINNER PRODUCING MARES: DESILU/VONNELL

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The thirteenth in a series of articles reviewing multiple classic-producing broodmares with five or more offspring in results information as shown on the Classic Families (CF) database. A number of these mares won classic races, became the dams of classic winners/progeny and contributed to the genetic inheritance of numerous outstanding performers.

DESILU (1960 U Scott/Mischevious), NZ family of Rita Bell; unraced; 17 foals, 12 to race for 11 winners/1 qualifier. Breeder: Jack Ferguson. All foals bred by: DWJ (Dave) Anderson except Mac Splash (Jim Dalgety), Bann Eain (Jack Hughes)

Desilu's sire U Scott's career was outlined in the July 2015 Harnessed Classic winner producing mares series (refer Snow Jane).

Her dam Mischevious (Dillon Hall/ Logan Pointer mare Monaive) was purchased for £350 by Dave Anderson in 1962 as a seventeen-year-old from Akaroa breeder Jack Ferguson with U Scott filly Desilu at foot. Anderson was in earlier days associated with John Butcher's stable that leased and then bought from Ferguson for £500 Desilu's full sister Desiree. This led to a long line of success for the Butchers with Tobias, Josias, Abidias, Samarias, Zedechias, Elias, Mathias just a few from the Desiree branch of the family of Rita Bell. Others of note from Desiree branch included Stabilizer, Nebulizer, Buck The Odds, Pascale Bromac.

The family of Rita Bell (Bellman/ unnamed Berlin mare) is notable for two branches emanating from Mischevious – Desiree and Desilu. From Desilu's third dam Galindo Lou (Logan Lou, 10 wins, National Hcp twice) to Monaive (granddam of Nebula, 10 wins; dam of Cloudage, 9 wins, Rangiora Cup) to Desilu, there was a winner or winners of top class.

Desilu was unraced due to a mysterious shoulder ailment likely the result of being kicked as a youngster. She became only the second recipient of two Broodmare of Year awards in 1980 and 1981 (Deft, Interchange, Sheezadoosie, other dual winners). The most successful of this exceptional family of classic progeny were by Tudor Hanover, full brothers Delightful Pal, Jacron and full sisters Delightful Lady, Daveys Jill. Desilu was humanely put down aged 33 in June 1994 after being afflicted with chronic arthritis for several years.

Desilu's male progeny included:

Davey Be Good, winner of twelve races in Australia (1:59.3, 1700m), four at Gloucester Park. Top Cash, two-win horse (Claudelands, Cambridge) and USA winner (\$100k earner, 17 wins).

Davey Jack, unplaced at two and three before winning 5 as a 4yo (Cambridge - Morrinsville, Te Awamutu clubs; Hutt Park - Otaki, Masterton clubs; Alexandra Park) before export to North America (1:59.3US, \$200k earner, 22 wins).

Delightful Pal, winner of 8 from 24 starts with 5 at three from nine outings (Waikato, Alexandra Park/Cambridge twice). He won the Kumeu Stakes - 4 off 20m for Roy and Barry Purdon before 2 further wins at Alexandra Park at five were followed by his export to USA.

First Batch, four-win horse for Reg Weatherley. Placed at two, he won 4 races at three (three at Alexandra Park including GN Derby; Cambridge) and Franklin Presidents Hcp at four. A further 2 wins were recorded at Claudelands as a 5yo before his export to North America.

Jacron, nine-race winner for Auckland Trotting Club officials Ron Robertson, Jack Maich and Wayne Fleet, he had three victories in his first season at four (Hutt Park, Alexandra Park, New Plymouth) for trainer Ken

Sefonte. Interspersed with 6 wins at six including four at Alexandra Park and 2 at Cambridge (Johnstone Memorial) for Mike Stormont, Jacron did not place at five or seven. He was retired suffering from thrombosis caused by a worm build-up in his blood.

Desilu's fillies included:

Auckland's Lady, unraced, dam of one winner, her eighth and final foal in Electric Kiwi (Caduceus Club Classic - 2, Queen of Hearts, Franklin Breeders Cup), dam of four winners including Electric Chapel (9 wins). Bann Eain, winner of 1 race over four seasons at age three - Cambridge (dam of four including three in Australia, Dark Baron (9 wins), Highfields Gem (5 wins), So Gorgeous (6) wins). Daveys Gene, unraced dam of two winners, Gene Hills (Otaki Cup, 4 NZ/4 AUS wins).

Daveys Jill, open class trotter, winner of 10 races starting with placings at three. Her first 7 wins came at four (Claudelands, Manawatu twice, Hutt Park - Scan Carriers series - 3/4T [placed second twice in same series previous year as a 3yo], Alexandra Park - 3 wins). Sixth in Rowe Cup at five, her final three victories were in consecutive starts at age six (Hutt Park twice, Alexandra Park) with a third in Reg Rhodes Flying Mile that year. This was followed by 22 unplaced efforts at seven and eight (fifth National Trot). Daveys Jill was granddam of dual-gaited Hanover Zip (Cambridge/Alexandra Park Winter/ Nyah/Echuca Cups)

Davita, unraced due to injury, dam of:

- Davita Lass, dam of Smooth Dave (WA Derby); 3rd dam of Smooth Leyanda (QLD Oaks), dam of:
 1. The Holmes Legend, dam of Poacher (Roxburgh Cup)
 2. The Falcon Legend (Kawatiri Cup)

3. Jerry Garcia (Akaroa Cup)
 - El Davita, 3rd dam of:
 1. Kirchberg (Northland Cup)
 2. Kirchdoff (Methven/Manukau/Hawkes Bay Cups)
 3. Kirkoswald, dam of Forever Loyal (Otaki/Wanganui Cups)
 - Tanya Lee, dam of Slugger (NZ C/S - 2, Cardigan Bay Stakes - 2); granddam of Grinaldi (NZYSS NHT - 2, Manukau Cup), The Oyster Man (NZSS NI H&G 4/5); 3rd dam of:
 1. Fake Denario (\$¾m, 1:48.2US, AUS Breeders Crown - 3c)
 2. Extra BG, dam of: Kotare Mach (Welcome Stakes, Flying Stakes - 3); granddam of Kotare Roland, Biella Star (Wyndham/Winton Cups)
 3. Kotare Jaeger (Methven Cup)
 4. Ross the Boss (\$½m, 1:50.0US)
 5. Tanisa Bromac, dam of Tijuana Bromac (Otaki Cup)
 - Zoleine, dam of Beaudene (Macau Caesars Palace Gold Cup), Smooth Jack (Masterton Cup)

Last but not least, Desilu's crowning breeding achievement was the 'Queen of the Park', Delightful Lady. One of this country's greatest ever race mares, her career record stood at 144 starts for 47 wins and 40 placings (3 in Australia) for earnings of \$476,250 (\$5,250 in Australia). Thirty eight of her victories came at Alexandra Park where apart from her five consecutive NI Breeders Stakes wins (1979 - 1983), she won two Auckland Cups (1980, 1981), two Pezaro/Mark Memorials, two Inter-Island Challenge Stakes/Down Under Miles, a Franklin Cup, Benson & Hedges/Lion Breweries Miles. She finished third in 1982 Auckland Cup, won an Inter Dominion heat and placed third in the 1983 Grand Final (to Gammalite and Poplar Alm, first NZ finisher). She is remembered for her only win at Addington (NZ Standardbred Breeders Stakes) and her epic length of straight tussle with Hands Down before finishing second in the 1980 NZ Cup.

Bred by Dave Anderson, Delightful Lady (Tudor Hanover/Desilu) was 1980/81 NZ Harness Horse of the Year. Her then lessees, Fred and Paul Grant, were leading owners (\$178,305) the same season. Trained at various stages

during her career by Mike Stormont (36 wins, 35 winning drives) and Gary Hillier (11 wins, 11 winning drives)), Paddy Timmins was her other successful driver making up her tally of 47 wins. Nine of those wins came at one mile (1:58.7), also same MR of 1:58.7 for 2200m with 12 wins over 2700m (stand) being her favourite winning distance. Most wins and highest stake winning seasons came at six (14 wins) and seven (12 wins). She set a number of NZ records over varying distances during her career.

Delightful Lady received the ultimate accolade being elected the eleventh member of the NZ Trotting Hall of Fame. A replica of her in full race trim is located in the NZ Trotting Hall of Fame and the Delightful Lady Lounge at Alexandra Park is named after her. She proved unable to conceive due to a chromosome abnormality, hence no foals produced by Delightful Lady.

Minor winners from Desilu: Good Time Chief, 5 wins in Australia; Mac Splash, winner at Ruakaka (Northland TC); Daveys Devil, 1:58.3US winner.

VONNELL (1965 Van Hanover/Dainty), Aus family of Lady Ajax; 2:13.4, \$805; 1 win; 8 foals, 7 to race for 6 winners/1 qualifier. Breeders Ron Hamilton, Mrs Maureen Hamilton. All foals bred by: Mrs Maureen Hamilton and Mrs Jill Marshall

Sire Van Hanover is a descendant of Axworthy and his son Guy Axworthy (Van Hanover 4 x 4 to Guy Axworthy) appearing on his paternal side. His own sire Nibble Hanover, winner of 35 of 67 races, is the only stallion to have sired both a Hambletonian (Miss Tilly) and Little Brown Jug (Knight Dream) winner. Van Hanover topped the NZ Broodmare sires list (winners) for two- and three-year-olds in 1977. He sired 109 winners in Australasia; damsire of 201 including Justin Hanover (WA Golden Nugget), Karloo Frost (NSWSS - 3c) and Vonnell's foals Lirille, Trevira, Tokorangi, Trilobal.

Vonnell's dam Dainty only had the one significant foal and that was Vonnell. Dainty was from Springfield Globe stallion High Class/Luckylast, Blaydon/Fortunate, Wrack/Fortune Maid and back though Miss Fortune to Edith and Lady Ajax. Vonnell was from the family of Lady Ajax who appeared in the August 2015

Harnessed Classic winner producing mares series - Leyava.

Vonnell raced from two (unplaced), placed at three, with her only success at Wyndham as a 4yo. She was unplaced at five before entering the broodmare barn.

Vonnell's male progeny included:

Trevira, classy and speedy open class pacer, winner of 16. Commencing as a 4yo, Trevira won eight of his thirteen starts including Gore Cup, Addington (Trans Tours Discovery Stakes - 4YO), heat Forbury NZ C/S - 4 (3rd heat, 2nd final) as well as wins at Oamaru, Waikouaiti, Wyndham, Invercargill, Winton. A two-time winner at five in consecutive races (Ashburton Cup/CPTC Presidents Stakes), Trevira finished fourth (promoted) in Sapling's AK Cup victory and in an ID consolation at Addington.

Trevira managed 4 wins at six - Waikato Flying Mile at Cambridge, Whangarei Hotel Flying Mile (first sub-two-minute mile at Ruakaka, 1:59.6) beating Young Quinn who had just returned from North America, and consecutive starts at Addington Easter meeting (Lion Lager Sprint, Easter Cup). Notable placings included seconds in NZFFA, Benson & Hedges Flying Mile, New Brighton Cup, Adams Memorial; thirds in NZ Cup (Lord Module), Thames Cup; fourths in Pan Am Mile, Pezaro Memorial.

His 2 wins at seven were at Winton (Invercargill OC FFA setting NZR 2400mM) and a second Waikato Flying Mile at Cambridge, part of 14 cheques from 16 seasonal starts. Significant placings were recorded with seconds in Thames Cup, Benson & Hedges Flying Mile, Wellington Cup; thirds in Hannon Memorial, Pezaro Memorial and fourths in NZFFA, Pan Am Mile. Trevira was sidelined for the season in January after Wellington Cup second with a splint problem in his near foreleg. Trevira did not win at eight but finished second in Ansett Flying Mile (Addington) with thirds in Timaru Couplands Mile (Bonnie's Chance 1:56.2) and Easter Cup. He headed for North America after Easter Cup (2:00.2US).

Trilobal, nine race winner. Unplaced in sole 2yo start, Trilobal won five at

three (Gore - Tanqueray & Eastern Southland 3YO Stakes; twice at Wyndham, Invercargill), was second in Southland Juvenile C/S and third in Timaru Challenge Stakes. At four, Trilobal won a further four at Oamaru, Cup Day at Addington, Timaru/New Brighton Cups. He was placed second in Ashburton Cup and fifth behind Hands Down in Easter Cup. Trilobal was a non-winner at five and six with just a solitary placing in Wellington Cup (third).

Vonnell's fillies included:

Cambric, three wins (Wyndham, Addington, Timaru), dam of a winner Chequers (2 at Alexandra Park, 4 in Western Australia with 2 at Gloucester

Park). Lirelle, twice second and a third in DB Fillies heats (4th final), 4th Southland Oaks at three before the winner of four as 4yo including Invercargill Breeders Stakes and third in Winton Equine Stakes. Bred from but never managed to conceive.

Tokorangi, eight-win Lumber Dream mare for Noel Taylor with six of her victories coming at three (Claudelands, Manawatu, Hutt Park, Alexandra Park - 3). Taylor turned down an offer of \$40,000 from North America for Tokorangi. At four she won twice at Alexandra Park (Franklin Cup) and placed twice including second in NI Breeders Stakes. A further 9 starts at

five and six were unproductive before Tokorangi was retired for breeding. She was dam of Power and Glory, 1:53.4US (among first 100 NZ bred Pacers in 1:55).

Tricotine, winner of 4, including 2 at Winton (Winton Equine Stakes), fourth in Ladyship Stakes, dam of:

- Just Royce, 9 wins, 2 at Addington, with significant placings including seconds in NZ Cup (Il Vicolo), Thames Cup; thirds in Superstars/NZ C/S - 4; fourth in NZFFA
- Royceden, 12 wins (3 at Moonee Valley, Globe Derby)
- Tri Royce, dam of Riverboat Royce (Palmerstonian Classic)

Next Month: Zenover/Sue Adios